procedure beginning with the preparation of the Approach Paper and setting up of sectoral Working Groups/Steering Groups etc. A number of Working Groups/ Steering Groups for different sectors have already been set up by the Planning Commission. The work on preparation of the Eighth Five Year Plan will be undertaken after the Approach Paper is finalised/ approved by the National Development Council.

Import of machines for treatment of Kidney Stones

767. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Kidney stone-surgeons oppose machine imports" appearing in the Hindu dated the 31st December, 1988; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the reservation expressed by the senior surgeons against the free imports and use of lithotipsy machines for treatment of kidney stones without surgery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The equipment is included under Open General Licence, list II Appendix 6 of Imports Exports Policy 1988—91, as well as under the list given in the notification 65/88-Cus, dated 1-3-1988 for concession of custom duty exemption. Charitable and Semi-Charitable organisations approved by respective State Government are permitted 100 per cent custom duty exemption on this item with approval of Export Committee including Urologist/Nephrologist as member.

We have not received any complaint from any patient or any surgeon or nephrologist so far. There is no lithotipsy machine in any Central Government Hospital. AIIMS is about to procure one.

Marketing of dangerous drugs

768. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Clioquinol, Analgin Dextro-prooxyphane, oxphenbutazone, Phenylbutazone, Femibutazone, Diiodohydroxyquinoline, Ethylestrenol, Nandrolone and Methandienone are being marketed in the country for human consumption;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these are dangerous drugs and have been banned in a number of countries;

(c) if so, the details of dangerous effects came to the notice of Government; and

(d) the names of substitute drugs and what steps have been taken to withdraw these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While these drugs are being marketed in a number of countries, some countries have preferred to withdraw some of these drugs.

(c) and (d) The experts in the country have not considered these drugs as dangerous and have not recommended withdrawal of these drugs.

Dextropropoxyphene, Oxyphenbutazone, Phenylbutazone, are analgesic/anti-inflamuatory drugs; Diodohydroxyquinoline is an anti-amoebic drug; Ethyloestronol, Naodrolone and Methandienone are anabolic drugs. Other analgesics/anti-inflammatory drugs like Aspirin, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen are also not free side effects. Similarly the other anti-amoebic drugs like Metronidazole, Tinidazole, Diloxanide, Emetine have their own characteristic side-effects.

The side effects of other androgens are very similar to that of Ethyloestrenol, Nandrolone and Methandienone.